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Rundfunkbeitrag (GEZ) — Obligation, Exemption, Costs

The Rundfunkbeitrag is €18.36/month per household. Find out who can be exempted and how.

Deutsche Begriffe: Rundfunkbeitrag | GEZ | Beitragsservice | ARD | ZDF

What is the Rundfunkbeitrag?

The **Rundfunkbeitrag** (colloquially "GEZ") finances public broadcasting in Germany (ARD, ZDF, Deutschlandradio). It is a **statutory obligation** — regardless of whether you use a television, radio, or the internet.

Amount in 2026

- **€18.36 per month** (€55.08 per quarter)
- Billing: quarterly via bank transfer, direct debit, or standing order
- **Per household** — not per person. Flat-share residents pay together only once.

Registration

After **registering your residence** at the local registration office, you will automatically receive mail from Beitragsservice. You must register within one month at:

- **rundfunkbeitrag.de**

Exemptions & Reductions

Full exemption for:

- **Bürgergeld** (SGB II)
- **Social welfare** (SGB XII)
- **BAföG** (education support)
- **Asylum seeker benefits**
- Deaf-blindness / blind assistance benefits

Reduction to €6.12/month for:

- Disability ID with marking **RF**

Submitting an Application

Exemption is **not automatic** — you must submit an application with supporting documents:

1. Online at **rundfunkbeitrag.de** → "Befreiung/Ermäßigung"
2. Upload current proof (e.g., Bürgergeld decision)
3. Exemption is effective from the month of application, **not retroactively**

Important for Foreigners

- The Rundfunkbeitrag applies to **all residents** in Germany, regardless of nationality
- Students and asylum seekers may also be required to pay (unless they receive an exemption)
- Non-payment can result in **reminders, late payment fees, and enforcement action**

--- As of March 2026. All information without warranty.